

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 13, 2009

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman  
Richard Nichols, Selectman Representative (7:20 p.m.)  
Gary Kubik, Precinct Representative (7:50 p.m.)  
Rusty Bridle, School Board Representative  
Pat Collins  
Victor DeMarco  
Dick Hansen  
Eileen Latimer  
Jack Lessard  
Michael Pierce  
Larry Stuker  
Peter Traynor

Excused

Maury Friedman  
Norman Silberdick

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Chairman Woolsey said this was the annual work session for the special money articles for budget year 2009.

**Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2008**

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Ms. Latimer to approve the Minutes of December 11, 2008.

**Vote:** 8 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions (Collins, DeMarco, Traynor). Motion passed.

**Hampton School District**

Chairman Woolsey discussed Warrant Article #4, funding of City Year program. This article had been tabled. Chairman Woolsey said Maureen Ward, Assistant Superintendent, checked with Revenue Administration and said City Year representatives

are considered contract employees of the school district. Chairman Woolsey asked the Committee if they would like to revisit this Article.

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Article #4 – City Year Program - \$15,000

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

**Town of Hampton**

Chairman Woolsey welcomed John Price, Public Works Director.

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Public Works Capital Reserve Fund - \$340,000

**Vote:** 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Hansen). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Salt Storage Shed - \$223,000

Chairman Woolsey asked what the capacity is of our present storage. Mr. Price said 200 tons. The new one would hold 1500 to 1800 tons.

Chairman Woolsey said that the current shed is a danger to the environment because it is leaking salt and the Town could be fined by the EPA.

Mr. Pierce asked if the requested shed had been compared to the one in North Hampton. Mr. Price said yes and also to others. Mr. Nichols said he calculates a 12-year payback on the requested shed. Mr. Price agreed. Mr. Nichols asked about building a shed one-half the size and purchasing salt twice a year. Mr. Price said that option was considered, but they felt this proposal was better.

Mr. DeMarco asked when the yearly salt purchase would be made and how much the dollar amount would be. Mr. Price replied they would purchase in August and it would be approximately \$120,000.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (DeMarco, Hansen). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Stuker, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Street Improvements (from Capital Reserve Fund) - \$300,000

Fred Welch, Town Manager, explained that this money is being raised from an existing fund. You are not raising more money. Mr. Traynor said the article should be worded so that the voters are aware this money is already there. Mr. Welch said he would confer with the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Bridle, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Rescue/Pumper Truck - \$576,360 (\$144,090 for first years payment in Fiscal '09)

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Chris Silver, Chief of the Hampton Fire Department. Chief Silver gave an overview of the department's equipment. At this time there are four pumpers. The vehicle to be replaced is 20 years old and has high mileage. It would be housed at the Winnacunnet station. The second oldest pumper will stay at the Beach.

Chairman Woolsey said that the ISO rating registered a concern about pumpers.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Architectural Services for Winnacunnet Road Fire Station - \$30,000

Ms. Latimer said she felt this amount would not do much at all. This needs to be changed to an amount that will allow a good architectural design that shows exactly what will be built and what it will cost. There will be something of substance to work with. Ms. Latimer said she felt the \$475,000 figure mentioned by Mr. Welch was reasonable.

**Amendment** made by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to raise the amount for architectural services for the Winnacunnet Road Fire Station to \$475,000.

Mr. Pierce said this amount will not pass. The \$30,000 will give a conceptual drawing to work with. Mr. Nichols said the voters would never approve this amount. The \$30,000 will provide professional assistance to the chief and then a reasonable proposal can be put out to the voters in 2010.

Ms. Latimer said the voters want something tangible they can vote on and the \$30,000 will not provide that.

Mr. Bridle said he felt the \$30,000 was not enough, but the \$475,000 was too high.

Mr. Traynor reminded viewers that if the rating of the Town's Fire Department goes down, fire insurance on homes will go up. There is also the matter of equipment deteriorating in the weather because it cannot be housed properly.

Mr. Kubik said that from talking with residents at the Beach, he didn't feel the \$475,000 figure would pass. Mr. Collins said that considering the state of the economy he did not feel this would pass.

Mr. Hansen said he felt the intent is sound, but it shouldn't take \$475,000 to come up with a basic plan to present to the voters.

Chairman Woolsey said it is important that whatever is built is green. This will give the most payback over the years. She also said she is afraid there could be a major disaster and the Town will not have the facilities to handle it. This is a public health and safety issue.

Chief Silver said the greatest obstacle has actually been overcome and that is the fact that everyone agrees that the new stations are needed. What is needed is to take a fresh look at this to decide what is required, what is needed, and what is wanted. Chief Silver said he can work with any amount because at least this is being moved forward. This must be approached in a unified manner. Chief Silver said he thought it would be best to be conservative and come up with a lower number.

Chairman Woolsey said this Article can be revisited after the Public Hearing.

Ms. Latimer withdrew her Amendment.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the main motion.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. DeMarco, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Elderly Exemption

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. DeMarco, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Collective Bargaining – Teamsters - \$69,321

**Vote:** 11 yes, 2 no (Nichols, Pierce). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Collective Bargaining-Hampton Police Association (Sergeants) - \$23.554

**Vote:** 11 yes, 2 no (Nichols, Pierce). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. DeMarco, seconded by Mr. Collins, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Collective Bargaining – Hampton Police Association - \$144,187

Chairman Woolsey referred to the tie vote on the article by the Board of Selectmen. She said that when a board spends money to negotiate and then does not recommend, it is not a good thing. Ms. Latimer said in this instance the recommendation of the Budget Committee may carry more weight.

Mr. DeMarco said that the contracts are not excessive. Mr. Stuker said that the Town must decide what kind of careers should be offered to candidates for the Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Traynor said this Committee should support contracts that are negotiated in good faith.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 3 no (Hansen, Nichols, Pierce). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Appropriation of Balance in 1996 Special Revenue Fund - \$177,000

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. DeMarco, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Cemetery Burial Trust fund - \$38,650

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Mr. Collins, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Cable TV Origination Fund - \$100,000

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Basketball Courts - \$72,000

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Police Forfeiture Fund - \$90,000

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Stuker, seconded by Mr. Kubik, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Town Hall Energy - \$35,000

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. DeMarco, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Mosquito Control - \$50,000

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Human Service Agencies - \$166,700

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Defray Cost of Services provided by TASC to Eligible Hampton Residents –  
\$6,400

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Meals on Wheels - \$5,051

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Construction of Pavilion at High Street Cemetery - \$30,000

**Vote:** 12 yes, 1 no (Pierce). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said the next meeting which is a public hearing will be held at the Junior High on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. At this time, operating budgets and warrant articles for the School and the Town will be addressed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lessard **moved**, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman